

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE AND MOVE ON LESSON 18

Series Subject: Accept the Challenge and Move On!

Lessons 17-19: The Final Admonition: To Live a Full and Victorious Life in the Promise Land Josh. 22:1-24:33

Lesson 18: Counsel to the Leaders Josh. 23:1-16

Today's Study: Josh. 23:1-16

1. Call-in of the Leaders Vv. 1-2
2. Compliance and Strict Separation Vv. 2-8
3. Charge to Love the LORD Vv. 9-11
4. Caution! Heed the Judgment of God! Vv. 12-16

Time is available only for a brief discussion of review questions from previous lesson.

INTRODUCTION

1. Highlights from Lesson 17 (Josh. 22:1-34)

(a) Strong Commendations (Josh. 22:1-3)

- (1) The tribes of Reuben, Gad and half-tribe of Manasseh were faithful to their commitment (Num. 32:16-24, 32) to fight alongside their brethren until Canaan was liberated. Their loyalty is both commendable and exemplary.
- (2) They were loyal to their leaders (Josh. 22:2).
 - Leadership do need loyal followers and this also relates to God's work, especially that we are involved in eternal matters.
 - When followers and leaders are working together they will have positive impact on the work they are pursuing and will produce great and rewarding results.
- (3) The East Jordan tribes were loyal to their fellow soldiers (v. 3a)
 - They abided by their commitment and went out and fought on behalf of their brethren, although they already had their own inheritance.
 - They had spearheaded the attacks against the enemies of the Promised Land, they were first to engage the enemy through the seven years of military conquest and were faithful through the entire process.
- (4) They were loyal in carrying out the mission given to them by God (Josh. 22:3b).
 - Their commitment meant that despite all obstacles, for them it was forward in the strength of the LORD. It was a price to pay but the dividends were much greater.
 - They did not desert their brethren but wholeheartedly carried out the mission given to them by God.

- (5) The East Jordan tribes' commitment is commendable and presents a powerful demonstration of **"follow through"** . . . note a few highlighted pointers:
- Our Christian experience should result in victory over the former life and now live a holy life, otherwise the grace of God is in vain (example see 2 Cor. 6:1-4, NB v. 1).
 - **A good start is commendable but not good enough if we do not endure to the end. It is not how we start but how we finish.**
 - The necessity for **commitment** is of uttermost importance because that's where **follow through** is enhanced.
 - We must have a made-up mind: "It's forward ever, and backward never!!" We must NEVER LOOK BACK! (1 Cor. 15:58; Gal. 6:9; 1 Peter 1:13).

(b) **Served Honorable/Sent with Appreciation** (Josh. 22:4)

(1) Desired goals accomplished (v. 4a)

- Canaan was now belonging to Israel.
 - The national campaign was completed (Josh. 10:40-42; 11:23; 12:7-24)
 - The occupation was not completed, but the remaining weaker enemies were the responsibility of the individual tribes and God assured them of His help (Josh. 13:2-6; 17:12-18; **23:5**).
- God makes and fulfills His promises (see Josh. 21:23-45).

(2) Discharged with great honor (v. 4b)

- It was a long time for the soldiers of the East Jordan tribes to be away from family, home, and other business interests. They never returned home nor displayed a negative attitude but remained focused on the goals to be accomplished.
- Now that victory was realized and the tribes of Israel were experiencing the rest God promised, the East Jordan tribes were given an honorable discharge and were allowed to return home.

(c) **Submission to God Emphasized** (Josh. 22:5)

(1) Strong admonition and charge (v. 5)

- Upon releasing the East Jordan tribes from active military duties, Joshua gave them a strong warning and charge. He knew that ever so often, men forget the LORD after the battle is over.
- The great themes of Joshua's life are reproduced in three significant words of admonition he gave in his demobilization address: **love, serve, and obey** (Josh. 22:5).
- He was fully convinced that **love, service and obedience** to God are bonds that unite the different people of God.
- This ancient concept of oneness was sharply focused in Christ's ministry (example see John 17, NB v. 21).

(2) The East Jordan tribes were charged to set their affection on God (v. 5b).

- The stability and success of the nation of Israel depended on this most essential requirement (see Deut. 6, NB v. 5).
 - Jesus Christ emphasized this most essential requirement and went further by adding to “love others as we love ourselves” (Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31).
- (3) They were to focus their attention on abiding in the way of the LORD (v. 5c).
- (4) They were to remain submissive to God by adhering to the commandments of God.
- The East Jordan tribes were charged **to walk in His ways and to keep His commandments**. Joshua told them to obey God with all that they have, to **keep His commandments, to hold fast to Him** in a personal sense, and to serve Him with ALL their heart, soul, mind and strength.
 - Beloved, this is where we prove who we really are: **see John 14:15**; 14:21; 15:10; 1 John 3:24; 5:3.
- (5) They were charged to remain steadfast in their commitment (v. 5e)
- This was a charge for firmness of mind and purpose, they were to be firmly fixed in established principles and there was to be steadfastness of their faith.
 - They were to stand firm, never let go of God and remained true to Him, true in their devotion and worship of Him.
- (6) They were to serve God wholeheartedly!!
- It was their responsibility to keep themselves from idolatry and their loyalty was due to God and God alone.
 - They could reflect on all that God did for them and they knew that their wholehearted devotion belongs to God.
- (d) **Satisfactory Compensation** (Josh. 22:6-8)
- (1) **“Joshua blessed them and sent them away.”** (v. 6)
- Joshua had purposed not to send them away without a blessing; he knew that they could not do what God wanted them to do without His blessing upon them.
 - Joshua not only prayed for them as a friend but he blessed them as a father in the name of the LORD, recommending them, their families, and affairs, to the grace of God.
- (2) The East Jordan tribes were given a wonderful reward for their faithfulness and loyalty (v. 8).
- (3) Brotherly care and thoughtfulness was strongly encouraged by Joshua (Josh. 22:8b)
- Upon their discharge they received great wealth from the spoils of war (v. 8a).
 - Joshua charged them to share with their brothers who had stayed behind. Joshua recognized that those who remained at home had performed an

important part and worthy of being rewarded (Josh. 22:8; see also 1 Sam. 30:21-25).

- Blessings flow from God, but they should never stop with us. They come to us, and then flow through us!

(e) **Serious Situation Developed** (Josh. 22:9-20)

(1) Their departure involved not only separation from those with whom they served during those seven years (some says five years) of war but the desire lingered as to how to hold on to the depth of the religious experience they had in Canaan.

- They needed something in place as a reminder so they built a very large, impressive altar by the river Jordan (Josh. 22:10). This altar was an exact replica of the LORD'S altar at the Tabernacle at Shiloh (Josh 22:28).
- The erection of a second unauthorized altar, however innocently intended, would violate the principles laid down in the Mosaic Legislation (Lev. 17: 8-9; Deut. 12:1-14; 13, NB Vv. 12-15).

(2) Upon being informed of the altar being built, the western tribes' understanding was that this act was an apparent rebellion of the East Jordan tribes and that matter had to be addressed (Josh. 22:11-14).

- Taking in consideration the possible wrath of God if the issue was not addressed; the western tribes assembled to march against the apparent rebellion against God.
- Instead of taking hasty action, they wisely appointed a delegation, consisting of Phinehas, and one high-ranking official from each of the ten tribes, to investigate the apparent rebellion (Vv. 13-14).
- **Their readiness to go to war demonstrated great courage to confront on behalf of God's truth and holiness. Appointing a committee to investigate shows that they were not happy about taking military action, nor will they do it rashly—but if necessary they will do it.**

(3) The primary objective of the investigating committee was two-fold: **first**, to discover the cause of the offense, and **second**, to amend the situation.

(4) The investigating committee was firm and resolute and presented their case meticulously, stayed focused and proceeded with courage and compassion.

Note a highlighted outline showing the main pointers in their presentation (See Josh. 22:16-20):

- Their first three searching questions (Vv. 16-17).
- They then asked a probing question (v. 18).
- They exhibited a costly love, being willing to pay any price to restore their lost brethren (v. 19a).
- They strongly urged the East Jordan tribes to refrain from rebelling against God (v. 19b).
- They reminded the East Jordan tribes of the consequences experienced as a result of Achan' transgression (v. 20).

(f) **Sufficiently Explained** (Josh. 22:21-29)

- (1) Upon hearing the charges presented, the East Jordan tribes were in a state of shock and were extremely shaken.
 - They were overwhelmed with grief and astonishment as they saw themselves as the western tribes saw them; for them it was definitely a humbling experience!
 - They wanted everyone to know that their purpose was in all respects the very opposite of that which they had been accused!
- (2) Observe the somber manner in which the East Jordan delegation commenced and presented their response.
 - Even before presenting their defense, the East Jordan delegation gave an answer to the West Jordan delegation that God knows the truth and they earnestly call upon Him to witness to their innocence (Josh. 22:22-23).
 - **Beloved, when we fall under the condemnation of men; it is comforting to know that we are able, with humble confidence appeal to God concerning our sincerity (1 Cor. 4:3-4).**
- (3) The East Jordan delegation then explained why the altar was erected.
 - The fear of isolation was the underlying motive why they built the altar.
 - They feared the separation from the true faith and worship of God as a result of the Jordan River.
 - They feared that the tribes in the west will deny them their representation, their profession that they had an established relationship with the LORD.
 - The altar was not built in order to offer burnt offerings and sacrifices (v. 26) and they were fully aware of the Mosaic Legislation regarding offering sacrifices and worship at the Tabernacle (Lev. 17:8-9; Deut. 12:1-4, NB Vv. 5-6).
- (4) The East Jordan tribes declared that the altar was built as a memorial and as a witness of their strong faith in the LORD (Vv. 27-28).
 - They strongly declared their unswerving allegiance and loyalty to the LORD (v. 29).
 - They attested to the fact that God knew they intended the altar to be used only as a monument to Israel's unity and was meant to emphasize that the people of both sides of Jordan worshipped the same God, the true and living God.

(g) **Settlement and Unity** (Josh. 22:30-34)

- (1) The entire proceeding was greatly beneficial, especially that both sides focused on a peaceful solution as there was evidence of a zeal for God.
- (2) The West Jordan delegation, led by Phinehas, was overwhelmingly joyful and relieved as can be observed in verse 31.
- (3) The West Jordan delegation reported to Joshua and the other leaders which brought great delight and all were thankful to God (Josh. 22:30-31).

- **The danger of fighting among themselves and planting the seed of division and ill feeling for all future generations had been averted!!**
- The East Jordan tribes named the altar **Ed**, because it stood as a witness.
- The altar was to stand **only** as a memorial, as a witness that the East Jordan tribes were followers of the LORD.

(4) These people were eager to pass on to their descendants a religion which was pure and entire. They would use this monument as a witness against them if they should forsake God, and turn from following Him.

2. Summary of Joshua 23

Introduction

Joshua called a meeting near the end of his life. He had spent some time at his inheritance, in "Mount Ephraim" (Josh. 19:50). Despite the facts of his aging and nearing death, he still carried a deep commitment and burden for Israel. He was deeply moved and driven by the necessity to review the abundant mercies which the LORD had freely and lovingly bestowed upon them. He also took the opportunity to warn his people, most earnestly of the danger of apostasy and abandoning the LORD.

This is an address to all the leaders of Israel in which Joshua refers to his age and hinted at the possibility of him dying in the near future. The reality of these factors contributed greatly to the urgency of his message. He followed very much the same pattern Moses used at the conclusion of his administrative period (see The Book of Deuteronomy—his final act and death noted in chapters 31-34). In reality, Joshua had nothing new to announce to the people but was deeply moved and eager to impress these profoundly most important old truths upon their minds motivated by abiding love for his beloved brethren.

The Summary—Josh. 23

Many years had passed and the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their enemies; Joshua was now very old and decided to pass on his final words of encouragement and challenge, so he called for all the leaders of the Israelite nation (Vv. 1-2)

He reminded them of the blessings of God and the victory over their enemies; he also reassured them that God will give the victory over all the remaining enemies. He also charged them to maintain a life of obedience and maintain a separated lifestyle (Vv. 2-8).

Joshua encouraged the leaders with the strongest promises, noting that no enemy should ever be able to prevail against them, if they continued to love the LORD their God. He also laid before them the consequences of disobedience (Vv. 9-11).

He also clearly and earnestly showed them that just as God's promises had been fulfilled to them while they were obedient, even so they should realize that His threatening will be fulfilled if they violated and rebelled from faithfully serving Him, which would result in them being utterly destroyed and lose the blessing of the Promised Land (Vv. 12-16).

3. Excerpts from Josh. 23 (Josh. 23:1-2, 3, 6-8, 11-13, 15-16 ESV)

“A long time afterward, when the LORD had given rest to Israel from all their surrounding enemies, and Joshua was old and well advanced in years, Joshua summoned all Israel, its elders and heads, its judges and all officers, and said to them, ‘I am old and well advanced in years.

And you have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake, for it is the LORD your God who has fought for you.

Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, but you shall cling to the LORD your God just as you have done to this day.

Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD. For if you turn back and cling to the remnant of these nations remaining among you and make marriages with them, so that you associate with them and they with you, know that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you, but they shall be a snare and a trap for you, a whip on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from off this good ground that the LORD your God has given you.

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. But just as the good things that the LORD your God promised concerning you have been fulfilled for you, so the LORD will bring upon you all the evil things, until He has destroyed you from off the good land the LORD your God has given you, if you transgress the covenant of the LORD your God, which He commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them. Then the anger of the LORD will be kindled against you, and you shall perish quickly from off the good land He has given you.”

A. Call-in of the Leaders Josh. 23:1-2

1. Acknowledging the Blessings of Rest (Josh. 23:1a)

“... the LORD had given rest unto Israel from all their enemies . . .” (v. 1a KJV)

(a) For many years Israel had been experiencing God’s rest.

(1) They were living a life of peace and security and experiencing God’s wonderful blessings and provision in the land flowing with milk and honey.

(2) Their major wars were over and whatever smaller armies of the enemy remained, God promised His continued help of victory over all enemies (Josh. 13:6; 23:5).

(3) The people were experiencing rest for approximately twenty to twenty-five years.

- Joshua was the approximate age of Caleb, who was 85, at the end of the conquest of Canaan (Josh. 14:10).
- Joshua died at the age of 110 (Josh. 24:29). It was a period when Israel experienced **God’s rest** under the leadership of a great servant of God!

(b) The consciousness of the rest they were enjoying has been clearly stated.

“... a long time after the LORD had given them rest . . . ”(v. 1)

- (1) It was so long that Israel had sufficient time to fully realize the magnificence of the comfort of their rest and for them to savor the great advantages of the good land.
 - (2) It was so long that Joshua had time to discern what were the potential dangers of Israel becoming corrupted, in particular as it relates to them adapting to the lifestyle of the Canaanites that remained, against which he was careful to strengthen Israel.
- (c) The goodness of God!!
- This is another great subject, which we can only address briefly, however, we have discussed this subject in other lessons.*
- (1) The saying: “God is good all the time, and all the time God is good!” goes beyond words and is a reality for the whosoever will!
 - (2) We can cover a wide range of subjects as it relates to “God’s goodness” of which “**rest**” is one and relevant to our current study.
 - Just as God gave rest to Israel in the Promised Land, even so rest is available now and in our eternal abode through Jesus Christ our Lord!
 - The **rest God** is talking about is not rest from our daily work or physical exhaustion when we labor. It is that profound peace that **God gives** to those who love and obey Him, regardless of circumstances. When there is wholehearted loyalty given to God, He will definitely stand by His promises to us!!
 - (3) I will briefly note a few pointers (*Randomly Listed*):
 - God has a way to help us cope with all the stress and strains of life (Matt. 11:28-30).
 - Human endeavors and ingenuity are futile if God is ignored (Psa. 127:1-2).
 - Inward peace and gladness come only of God (Psa. 4:8).
 - Man must cease from his labors, schemes and manipulation and sincerely commit his all to God (Psa. 37:1-7, 34-40, NB Vv. 7, 34).
 - Remove anxiety and keep trusting God (Phil. 4:6-7)
 - (4) Beloved, despite the troubling times, the testing and turmoil you can find rest in God! Beloved the rest of God assures you of peace!!
 - **“A contended heart is a calm sea in the midst of all storms”**
 - Jesus gives you the assurance (See Matt. 6:25-34).
 - The Refrain of **“Wonderful Peace”**
Peace, peace, wonderful peace
Coming down from the Father above
Sweep over my spirit forever, I pray
In fathomless billows of love.

2. Aging Joshua (Josh. 23:1b)

“... Joshua was old, advanced in age ...” (v. 1b NKJV)

“... ‘I am old, advanced in age.’” (v. 2b NKJV)

- (a) Definitely, he was now advanced in age.
- (1) Some years earlier God had reminded him of it:
“And the LORD said to him: ‘You are old, advanced in years . . .’” (Josh. 13:1b NKJV).
 - (2) But now he had felt the effects of his aging process and he readily spoke of it:
“I am old, advanced in age: (Josh 23:2b NKJV)
- (b) This would be his final admonition addressing the leaders of Israel (*There is a final session with all Israel ... Josh. 24*).
- (1) He knew the facts of his age and that he would soon be passing away to be with the LORD.
 - (2) The facts were distinctly clear to him and as a result felt compelled to do all that was possible to establish his leaders and prepare them to take over the leadership of the nation.
 - He knew that the responsibility of leadership must entirely be placed upon them.
 - It was incumbent upon Joshua to make sure that the leaders were in a right relationship with God and for them to continue obeying the LORD.
- (c) Joshua’s age and experience were used in this address for the benefit of the nation.
- (1) Because of the advance stage of his life, he knew that there was limited time to be with them and this address was driven with a sense of compulsion and urgency with which he seeks to advise and instruct them.
 - He was making proper use of time while it was available
2 Peter 1:3 NKJV
“Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you.”
 - Matthew Henry notes:
“When we see death hastening toward us, this should quicken us to do the work of life with all our might.”
 - (2) Joshua was expecting the leaders to be receptive because he had both the age and experience, therefore, what he had to say was sound wisdom that would benefit them and the nation.
 - He actually spent all his life in their service and therefore what he had to say was to be readily accepted by them.
 - They should also realize that his (Joshua’s) time with them was limited and they were with him for a limited time and it was necessary to carefully adhere to what he had to say and faithfully apply them practically.
3. **All Leaders Summoned** (Josh. 23:2)
- (a) All the leaders of Israel were called and were now seated before Joshua, the great military commander and strategist, but even more, the great servant of God.

- (1) It was not possible at this time to address the entire nation of Israel, so he called in all the leaders.
- (2) Who were represented at this meeting?
 - **The elders:** the privy-counsellors, which in latter times constitutes the great Sanhedrin.
 - **The heads of each tribe:** some refer to them as the noblemen and gentlemen of their respective territories.
 - **The judges:** learned in the laws that tried criminals and other necessary cases and gave judgment accordingly.
 - **Officers or sheriffs:** who were entrusted with the execution of judgments handed down by the courts.
 - It is to be realized also that Eleazar the High Priest and his son Phinehas, most likely Caleb and all military leaders who served under his command during the conquest of the Promised Land, were all present.
- (b) It may be they all wondered what this great commander, this strong servant of the LORD had to say on such an occasion as this.
 - (1) Curiosity was high and the questions were flooding the minds of the attendees as they tried to imagine what were the possible areas of admonition Joshua had to pass on to them.
 - (2) Joshua knew why he called them:
 - That they might communicate effectively the understanding and substance of his address, so that the entire nation hears, understand and abide accordingly.
 - He knew that as leaders, if they faithfully served God and cling to Him wholeheartedly, their lives and guidance would greatly influence the common people to sincerely serve God.

B. Compliance and Strict Separation Josh. 23:2-8

Introduction

As noted above, Joshua in his old age, gathered the leadership of Israel to give them a farewell address; to communicate to them the things that are near to his heart, the things that were most important for them to hear

Under normal circumstances he was not able to reach the entire nation but could effectively do so through all the leaders. In essence, this was a charge to the leaders and eventually it would be passed on to the people to obey the LORD and to live a life of strict separation.

1. Remembering God's Blessings (Josh.23:3-5)

Joshua began his address by giving glory, honor and praise to God. He could have focused on his accomplishment as a military leader, especially that it was most impressive. However, Joshua was far more interested in glorifying God instead of drawing attention to himself. The leaders were challenged to remember the

blessings of God; to remember the things He had done for them (Vv. 3-5). It is an established fact that God had done so much for His beloved people, and the people themselves were witnesses of His blessings.

Note the following pointers:

(a) **Many great and mighty nations were driven out to make room for Israel** (Josh. 23: 3a).

“You have seen all that the LORD your God had done to all these nations because of you, ...” (v. 3a NKJV).

(1) The Israelites were witnesses of the mighty work of God on their behalf.

- God had given them victory over the enemies of the Promised Land.
- Israel fought with enemy after enemy, they were in conflict, battle after battle . . . **BUT GOD was with them!!**
 - Through it all it was God who had given the strength and power in the midst of it all.
 - They realized victory and were thus able to overcome and defeat all their enemies in the Promised Land.

(2) We are witnesses of victory over the powers of darkness (*Details not possible. . . note a few highlighted pointers*).

- God has revealed Himself to us through Jesus Christ (Heb. 1:1-4).
- The disciples had a one and one relationship with Jesus Christ (1 John 1:1-3).
- That which was so long anticipated has now been revealed to us (Col. 1:24-29, NB v. 26).
- This reality can be **personally** experienced and make us all actively a part of this “good news” (Acts 4:20)
- Him who we declare, we are His witnesses!!
 - **Acts 2:32 Amplified Bible**
“This Jesus God raised up, and of that all we {His disciples} are witnesses.”
 - See also Acts 2, NB Vv. 22-24, **32**; 4:11-15, NB v. 18-20; 1 Cor. 15, NB Vv. 1-11, 14; etc.

(b) **The enemies of Canaan were not only driven out but were trampled down** (Josh. 23:3b)

“ . . . for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you . . . ” (v. 3b NKJV)

(1) The enemies were not only driven out but they were trodden down (subdued; conquered; etc.) before Israel.

- There were evidences of pockets of resistance and with great obstinacy but they were subdued by Israel (Josh. 16:10; 17:12; etc.)
- Israel had full control over the land; the enemies were crushed and were in a state of constant abasement (see Psa. 44:5).

(2) Their victory is an illustration of the power and goodness of the God of Israel, it was the LORD who not only led them, and fed them, and kept them but He fought for them as “a Man of War” (Ex. 15:3).

- (c) **God not only promised the Promised Land (Gen. 15:18; etc.) but fulfilled His promise, in fact all His promises! (Josh. 21:45; etc.).**
- (1) It was all made possible because of the goodness of God for His dear people (v. 4).
 - (2) Their inheritance included all the land that had already been conquered, that stretched all the way from the Jordan River over to the Great Sea, the Mediterranean Sea (see v. 4).
 - (3) Under Joshua's leadership, the Israelite army had broken the back of the military occupation. Only the weaker cities remained for the individual tribes of Israel to conquer.
- (d) **Continued victory over the remaining smaller armies guaranteed** (v. 5a).
"And the LORD your God will expel them from before you and drive them out of your sight" (v. 5a NKJV).
- (1) Joshua assured them that God would continue to conquer and give victory over all remaining enemies of the Promise Land.
 - (2) As noted before, there were enemies that still controlled some of the Promise Land, nevertheless God regarded the land as belonging to His dear people.
 - All Israel had to do was to claim the land, exercise faith in God, get in action and God would give it to them.
 - It was God who had taken them thus far and was able and willing to continue to give them the victory over all the enemies (Josh. 13:6; 23:5).
 - (3) The underlying power of this assurance is: *Each tribe may venture for itself, and for the recovery of its own lot, without fearing disadvantage by disproportion of numbers; for the LORD your God, who is all-powerful, who is mighty in battle is the one who fights for you! (Deut. 2:25; 11:25; 28:7; Psa. 24:8; etc.).*
- (e) God will give His people more of the Promised Land (v. 5b).
"So you shall possess their land, as the LORD your God promised you: (Josh. 23:5b NKJV).
- (1) Here is a vivid picture of the victorious life that God gives to the believer as he conquers the enemies of his life.
 - As believers, we must continue to fight in the strength of the LORD the enemy that seeks to destroy us (Psa. 46:1-3), even the last enemy which is death (1 Cor. 15:26).
 - God will give the believer power to conquer all enemies just as He gave the Israelites power to conquer their enemies (Deut. 3:22; Luke 10:19; Rom. 8:37; Eph. 6:11-17; etc.).
 - (2) Some Characteristics of God's promises (Briefly noted):
 - Unfailing 1 Kings 8:56
 - Assured by Divine Ability 2 Cor. 1:20 (also 7:1)
 - Of Infinite Value 2 Peter 1:4
 - Culminate in Everlasting Life 1 John 2:25

(3) Note two additional references:

- **Rev. 21:7 NKJV**
“He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.”
- **Psa. 44:5 NKJV**
“Through You we will push down our enemies; Through Your name we will trample those who rise up against us.”

(f) **Brief Review:**

In his address Joshua challenged the leaders to remember God’s blessings by emphasizing five specific areas.

- (1) Many great and mighty nations were driven out to make room for Israel (**Josh. 23:3a**).
- (2) The enemies were not only driven out but were trampled down (**Josh. 23:3b** ... *NOTE also Psa. 44:5*)
- (3) God not only promised the Promised Land (Gen. 15:18; etc.) but fulfilled His promise (Josh. 21:45) (**Josh. 23:4**).
- (4) Continued victory over the remaining smaller armies were guaranteed (**Josh. 23:5a**).
- (5) God will give His people more of the Promised Land (**Josh. 23:5d**).

2. **Reinforcing the Necessity to be Committed** (Josh. 23:6-8).

The responsibility of leadership was about to be passed on to these leaders now gathered in Joshua’s presence. This was a very important time as the *mantle of leadership* was about to be laid upon their shoulders. Joshua knew that it would not be long before he passes on to be with the LORD and the need of the moment was most important. It was top priority to have in place capable men, who had a personal knowledge and relationship with the LORD. Joshua knew that he must have in place men who knew their duties and would lead by example.

(a) **Courage in their commitment emphasized** (Josh. 23:6)

- (1) The leaders were called upon to be courageous, strong and careful in obeying God’s Word (v. 6).
 - They needed to be fearless in order to steadfastly focus on and be obedient to God’s Word.
 - **Lip service is easy to do but to sincerely and consistently follow God and His Word is not something for the faint of heart.**
- (2) They were to keep “**all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses**” (v. 6 NKJV).
 - This same charge was given to Joshua at the outset of his leadership (Josh. 1:7)
 - **Some are OK with doing somethings in God’s Word but will not adhere to what is not their liking!!**

- The leaders of Israel were to **obey ALL God's law . . .** and this is applicable to ALL believers as well!!
 - These leaders: **were not to turn away from God's Word, neither to turn to the right nor the left. God has given His Word to His people to guide them through life, so that they would know how to live, what to do and what not to do!!**
 - God's Word was the greatest provision He had given to His dear people.
 - God has done all that was necessary not only to record His Word but has preserved it through the centuries amidst all opposition and other negative factors, it shall NOT pass away!! (Matt 24:35).
 - The Word of God has always been available to His people, to show them how to live by **His standards:**
2 Tim. 3:16-17 Amplified Bible
"Every Scripture is God-breathed (given by His inspiration) and profitable for instruction, for reproof and conviction of sin, for correction of error and discipline in obedience, [and] for training in righteousness (in holy living, in conformity to God's will in thought, purpose, and action). So that the man of God may be complete and proficient, well fitted and thoroughly equipped for every good work."
- (3) Israel knew of God's faithfulness to them!
- It was God who fought against their enemies and likewise they were to valiantly keep themselves for Him!!
 - LET'S REPEAT THE ADMONITION:
 "Therefore be very courageous to keep **all** that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses . . . "
 - It was their duty to keep with care, exercise diligence, effort and remain steadfastly focused on what is written.
 - **1 Chron. 22:12 ESV**
 "Only may the LORD grant you discretion and understanding, that when he gives you charge over Israel you may keep the law of the LORD your God."
 - There must be a made up mind to keep moving forward, steadfastly abiding by God's Word ". . . lest you turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left" (v. 6b NKJV).
 - Satan doesn't care about which extreme you get off to, either legalism or licentiousness please him.
 - Israel was delivered from bondage, blessed with the possession of Canaan but **no one can continue to experience the grace of God if they refuse to manifest the character of God.** In Deut. 5, Moses reminded them of God's covenant, note carefully verses 32-33.
 - We must walk in the light of God's Word. ... See James 1:19-27, NB Vv. 22-24.

(b) **Caution must be exercised** (Josh. 23:7)

The leaders were to take heed lest they lose out and be deprived of their awesome blessings. If they turn either to the right or to left they will encounter errors and extremes in either situation. They were to be cautious of running into worldly deterioration of God's standards or some form of superstitious addictions and ungodly practices.

They must especially take heed of all means that lead to idolatry, a sin which they were first inclined (Abraham was taken out of idolatry Josh. 24:2; see also Ex. 32, NB Vv. 1-14) and would be most tempted.

(1) **Distinctiveness must be maintained and prioritized.**

"And lest you go among these nations, that remained among you" (v. 7a NKJV).

They must not acquaint themselves with idolaters, nor come among them to visit them or be present at any of their feast or entertainments for they were not to undertake any intimacy with them as such would endanger their right standing with God.

(2) **They were to avoid the least of any affection for idolatry.**

"You shall not make mention of the name of their gods" (v. 7b NKJV)

They were not to show any affection for idols, neither to make mention of the names of these false gods, instead they were to bury the remembrance of them in perpetual oblivion, that the worship of them may never be revived.

(3) **They must not tolerate nor encourage anyone to show admiration for idolatry.**

"Nor cause anyone to swear by them" (v. 7c NKJV)

They themselves must not swear any form of allegiance to the idols neither must they cause others to swear allegiance, covenants must not be made with idolaters; such an act should never occur among the people of Israel.

(4) **They must pay careful attention to the situations where idolatry is practiced lest they be ensnared.**

"You shall not serve them nor bow down to them" (v. 7d NKJV).

They should take heed of the practice of idolatry lest by any means they themselves are deceived by it. At all cost they must be on guard, refuse to bow down to false gods which the second commandment forbids.

(c) **Continuous loyalty to God emphasized** (Josh. 23:8)

(1) ***"Cleave unto the LORD your God"*** (v. 8), that is "delight in Him, depend upon Him, devote yourself to His glory, and continue to do so to the end, as you have done unto this day, ever since you came to Canaan."

(2) Israel was chosen to be a witness to the world, proclaiming the true and living God. Because of this unique position, **it was compulsory for them to be distinctive and remain continuously committed to God!!** ***Note a few pointers listed briefly (repeated for emphasis):***

- They were to be courageous, strong, and careful in obeying God (v. 6).
 - They were to be faithful and consistently keep what was written in the Book of the Law of Moses (v. 6).
 - They knew of God's faithfulness to them and likewise they must be faithful to Him (Vv. 4-5, etc.).
 - They were to take heed not to compromise with sinful practices but maintain a consistent distinctive lifestyle (v. 7).
 - The fact is, if they compromised the standards, they would become a distraction and hindrance instead of being a light to those in darkness (v. 7; etc.).
- (3) Joshua was admonishing them to be **continuously faithful to God** (v. 8).
- "You have cleaved to the LORD unto this day, therefore continue to do so, else you will lose the praise and compensation of what you have labored for. Your righteousness will not be mentioned unto you if you turn from it."
 - Oh, beloved, let us:
Press along saints, press along
In God's own way!!

3. Recommendations . . . Practical Lessons

In Joshua's admonition to the leaders, there are at least four distinctly clear lessons that are applicable to all the people of God.

(a) We must be: "**Admirably Obedient to God.**"

(1) This thought was noted in Josh. 23:6

(2) We must be fearless, tenacious and cautious in our obedience to God. It is imperative to faithfully keep **all** His Word, **all** His commandments.

(3) Note:

- **Rev. 22:14 NKJV**

"Blessed are those who do His commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and enter through the gates into the city."

- See also Matt. 7:15-23, NB v. 21; John 15:10; Acts 17:10; etc.

(b) As believers there must be: "**Absolute Separation from the World.**"

(1) This thought was noted in Josh. 23:7a

(2) We must be fearless, tenacious and cautious to live lives of strict separation.

(3) We must not fellowship and intermingle with the evil, iniquitous and worldly-minded, we are called out and must remain separated.

(4) Note:

- **2 Cor. 6:16-17 NKJV**

"And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: 'I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, And they shall be My people.' Therefore,

‘Come out from among them And be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, And I will receive you.’”

- See also Luke 21:34; Rom. 12:2; 2 Cor. 6:14-16; Eph. 5:11; 1 John 2:15-16; etc.

(c) We must: **Abstain from False Worship or False gods.**

(1) This thought was noted in Josh. 23:7b.

(2) We must be fearless, tenacious, and cautious that we never become involved with false worship or false gods. Under no circumstance we must have anything to do with idolatry!

(3) Note:

- **Eph. 4:14 Amplified Bible**

“So then, we may no longer be children, tossed [like ships] to and fro between chances gusts of teaching and wavering with every changing wind of doctrine, [the prey of] the cunning and cleverness of unscrupulous men, [gamblers engaged] in every shifting form of trickery in inventing errors to mislead.”

- See also Matt. 7:15-20; Mark 13:22; Rom. 1:24-25; 1 Cor. 12:2; 1 Chron. 16:26.

(d) We must faithfully and consistently: **Adhere to the LORD!**

(1) This thought was noted in Josh. 23:8

(2) We must be fearless, tenacious, and cautious to firmly adhere to and wholeheartedly be committed to the LORD

(3) Note:

- **1 Cor. 15:58 NKJV**

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.”

- See also Gal. 5:1; Heb. 3:6; 4:14; 10:22-23; 2 Peter 3:17.

(e) **How to Avoid Stepping Away from God?**

Two specific things noted in Josh. 23:7

(1) **First**, do not mingle with the rebellious people (*mingle: mixing interweaving, blending, etc.*)

“That you do not mix with these nations that remain among you.” (v. 7a Amplified Bible)

- We socialize with the love of God, but we do not mix-up!
- We reach out with the message of salvation, with compassion and care, but we do not adapt to their standards!!
- We penetrate just like salt and light (Matt. 5:13-16) but we must not be saturated by sin!!
- Etc.
- Adapting to ungodly standards is a major set-back for the people of God and has been repeatedly noted in the Word of God, for example Rev.

3:14-22. These believers became just like the people they were called to minister.

- (2) **Second**, do not give attention to the gods they worship nor their pernicious life style.

“ . . . or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them, or serve them.” (v. 7b Amplified Bible)

See also Ex. 23:13; Deut. 10:12-22, NB v. 20.

- (3) James expressed the danger of mingling with and being saturated with worldliness.

James 4:4 NKJV

“Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.”

- (4) As noted earlier, the Israelites had the responsibility to make others aware of the true and living God (see Jer. 10, NB Vv. 10-18; etc.), and this mission could not be accomplished by compromise. This is applicable to all the people of God even us today (2 Chron. chaps. 17-20; 2 Cor. 6:14-18; 2 Peter 2, NB Vv. 12-22 highlight Vv. 15-19; Rev. 2:12-17; etc.).

C. Charge to Love the LORD Josh. 23:9-11

You will observe, especially in regards to these last three chapters in Joshua that there continues to be repetition of key issues (Josh. 22-24, also in some preceding chapters). In a previous lesson, I noted “The Importance of Repetition”, which is a great contribution to effective learning. Zig Ziglar noted: “Repetition is the mother of learning, the father of action, which makes it the architect of accomplishment.”

Joshua once more places emphasis on the necessity of loving God (See also Josh. 22:5). Both the leaders and regular citizens (as well as believers) are not only to obey God but to sincerely love Him! It is a proven fact that people can obey, follow instructions and go through routines of those in authority, without loving them. This should not be the situation with Israel (or with the Church) but they were (are) to sincerely love the LORD. The peoples’ hearts were supposed to be filled with a deep sense of devotion, commitment, loyalty, caring, warmth and affection for the LORD.

1. Heartfelt Gratitude (Josh 23:9-10).

- (a) Once more we have seen an expression of great appreciation been expressed for the blessing of God by the servant of God (v. 9).

(1) Similar gratitude was expressed in verse 1 of this chapter . . . it was God who had given them rest from all their enemies (Josh. 23:1).

(2) It was God who gave them the Promised Land and fulfilled **all** His promises to Israel (Josh. 21:45).

- (b) Joshua charged the leaders to focus on the great things that God has done for Israel!!

- (1) Many great and mighty nations were driven out of this fine land to make way for Israel (Josh. 23:3).
- (2) These mighty armies were subdued before the very eyes of the children of Israel (Psa. 44:5). They were eye-witnesses of His wonder working power on their behalf (Josh. chaps. 6, 8, 10, 11).
- (3) He was Israel's champion!! The El Shaddai!!
 - Among the several shades of meaning (*for "El Shaddai"*), at this time we have limited time ... please note: **"He is mighty" ... "God Almighty"**.
 - He is "the Overpowerer", meaning God will do what He purposes to do, overpowering all opposition.
 - Note a few references Gen. 17:1; 28:3; 35:11; Ex. 6:2-3.
- (4) God had given Israel the ultimate and absolute victory over even the seemingly invincible enemies!!
 - God had given them the miraculous power to defeat the enemy.
 - This mighty power was translated to the LORD'S people.

Note Vv. 9b & 10

"... each one of them had been empowered to route a thousand—all because the LORD Himself fought for His people, just as He had promised."

- (c) Every **true believer** is involved in combat with the powers of darkness but this account in Joshua is a powerful lesson of the enabling of God for us to be victors.
- (1) Joshua was near death and had a major concern that the leadership of Israel would never forget that God would give them power, immense capability to defeat any enemy that attacked them.
 - (2) Beloved, this is a promise to all of God's children. No matter who maybe the enemy, God has guaranteed us the power to overcome and conquer whosoever or whatever the enemy may be.
 - **Eph. 3:20 ESV**
"Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us."
 - See also Matt. 19:26; Acts 1:8; Rom. 16:25-27; 2 Cor. 12:9-10; Heb. 11:33-34; Isa. 41:10

2. **Hear My Urgent Plea . . . Serve the LORD!!** (Josh. 23:11)

The following pointers are from Lesson 17, page 15 with the exception of (2):

- (a) The stability and success of the nation of Israel depended on the most essential requirement (See Deut. 6, **NB v. 5**).
 - (1) Love is the root of all obedience and in the Book of Deuteronomy, it is the primary attitude people should have toward God.
 - (2) *This charge was also given to the East Jordan tribes to love the LORD their God (Josh. 22:5) and repeated to all leaders of Israel (Josh. 23:11).*
 - Loving God is the first and greatest commandment.

- God’s people must love Him with all their heart, mind, body, soul and strength . . . with their all and everything!!
- (b) Jesus Christ re-emphasized this most essential requirement and went further by adding “loving our neighbors as we love ourselves” (Matt. 22:37-40; Mark 12:29-31).
- (1) **Psa. 31:23 NKJV**
 “Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.”
- (2) Loving the LORD means to walk in all His ways, to obey all His commandments, to cling or hold fast to Him and to serve Him with all one’s heart and soul (Josh. 22:5).

3. How the Blessings of God Flow . . . Practical Lessons?

In Joshua’s address we observe some specific steps for maintaining the flow of blessing from God.

- (a) First, “**Do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses . . .**” (Josh. 23:6 NKJV).
- (1) God’s revelations are not to be altered by any generation.
- (2) It is imperative that we **keep** and **do** that which God has revealed to be the way of life.
- (3) **Matt. 7:21 ESV**
 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom, **but the one who does the will of My Father which is in heaven.**”
- (4) See also Matt. 12:50; Luke 6:46-49; John 13:17; James 2:17-18; etc.
- (b) Second, “**You shall hold fast to the LORD your God . . .**” (Josh. 23:8 NKJV)
- (1) The message conveyed here is the importance of loyalty to God!
- (2) Look at the assurance given to Israel: “**One man of you shall chase a thousand . . .**” (v. 10 NKJV).
- (3) Oh beloved! As long as we remain loyal to God, He will fight our battles (Deut. 28:7; 32:30; Lev. 26:7-8).
- (c) Third, “**Therefore take careful heed to yourselves, that you love the LORD your God.**” (Josh. 23:11).
- (1) This relationship must be maintained at all cost.
- (2) Faithfully loving the LORD with all our heart, soul, mind and strength will be rewarded, **note**: “. . . for the LORD your God is He who fights for you, as He has promised you.” (Josh. 23:10 NKJV)
- (3) With made up minds we will remain faithful to Him at any cost (Rom. 8:28-39, NB v. 35).

D. Caution! Heed the Judgment of God!! Josh. 23:12-16

Introduction

Joshua gave the leaders a fair warning as to what would be the fatal consequences of apostasy. There are some individuals who are obstinate and just do not heed warnings,

no matter the potential danger and obvious dangers evident. This fact is true in so many areas of life, one recent example, “The COVID-19 Pandemic”. Many denied the reality of this deadly disease, some calling it fake, some used it as a political tool, etc. and unfortunately, so many precious lives were lost including some of those who denied its reality. Sin has far more destructive consequences, than COVID-19 or any other deadly diseases . . . OH that we all would take heed!! Joshua charged the leaders of Israel to heed the warning of God’s judgment if they failed to love the LORD (Josh. 23:12-16). The danger of turning away, backsliding and becoming apostate was the great concern of Joshua as these leaders, that he was addressing, were in process of being handed the torch of leadership for God’s people! It was imperative for them to stay focused, wholeheartedly committed to God and not become entangled with their worldly neighbors. Being aware of the need, Joshua warned the leaders to heed the judgment of God.

1. **Danger of Forsaking the LORD** (Josh. 23:12-13)

(a) “. . . if indeed you go back . . .” (v. 12a NKJV).

(1) This clearly suggest that any withdrawing from God’s way is a backward move.

(2) Nothing would more certainly draw them away from the allegiance to God than for them to have close relationship with the unrighteous.

(3) For them to continue in God’s love required of them to keep separated from the ungodly influence around them, they must keep themselves unspotted from the world (James 1:27).

(b) How Joshua describes the apostasy which he warns the leaders against.

(1) **The first step of this compromising act would be by growing intimate with idolaters (v. 12).**

- These people would sweet-talk them and propose themselves as valuable and worthwhile companions.
- Israel was now in-charge of Canaan and their friendly association was even more enviable and will be hotly pursued.

(2) **The next step would be intermarrying with them (v. 12). The Canaanites would find ways to create attractions to these forbidden unions by their deceit and they would be delighted to give their children in marriage to these wealthy Israelites.**

- These intermarriages were forbidden and had destructive and derogatory consequences (Example see Deut. 7:1-5; such act was the cause of King Solomon’s downfall 1 Kings 11:1-11).
- **Beloved, the way of sin is down-hill, and those who have fellowship with sinners cannot avoid having fellowship with sin!!**

(c) Joshua cautioned the leaders that if they do not separate themselves from the ungodly influence around them, those influences will become instruments of torture, leading to their destruction.

Josh. 23:13b NKJV

“But they shall be snares and traps to you, and scourges on your sides and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from the good land your God has given you.”

- (1) Beloved, what is regarded today as only an “innocent Canaanite” in our lives may become a torture and snare tomorrow.
- (2) **“How often do we see that the temptation we have pampered and encouraged and indulged in become a scourge and thorn in our side! The compromising Christian is not a happy man! Let the enemy remain in a Christian life, let him have one foothold, and he soon become a scourge.”** (Alan Redpath)
- (3) These ungodly influences never make themselves known as instruments of torture and destruction; definitely not, instead they present themselves as wonderful things and great opportunities—but we must be sober, vigilant, try the spirits, resist and abstain from every evil (See 2 Cor. 2:11; 11:14; 1 John 4:1; 1 Peter 5:8-9; 1 Thess. 5:22)

Heb. 12:1 Amplified Bible

“Therefore Then, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses [who have borne testimony to the truth], **let us strip off and throw aside every encumbrance (unnecessary weight) and that sin which so readily (deftly and cleverly) clings to and entangle us**, and let us run with patience endurance and steady and active persistence the appointed course of the race that is set before us ...”

(d) The essence of Joshua’s message: **God’s people were not to become entangled with their worldly neighbors lest they become influenced by them!!**

- (1) They were to live lives that were spiritually separated, lives that were entirely consecrated to God!!
- (2) The fact is, if the leaders and people of Israel disobeyed God and became entangled with the ungodly, the judgment of God would fall upon them. The Word of God reminds us that what a man sows he will reap (Gal. 6:7-9) and such would be applicable to Israel, the judgment of God would be the result of exactly what they had sown (Josh. 23:13).

2. Deeds Will Be Addressed Accordingly (Josh 23:14-16)

(a) The leaders were to remember especially one specific blessing of God, and it is the most wonderful blessing of all: **“the complete fulfillment of all God’s promises”** (Josh. 21:45; 23:14).

- (1) Joshua also noted his approaching time to pass on to be with the LORD!
 - Too many live as if they will live physically forever and that they are free to live as they desire.
 - From our lesson we have seen another servant of God who was conscious of his time to pass on but he could do so with acceptance and with grace, readiness, hope and free from all fear!!

- Here is Bro. Paul's response (*at least one of his responses to the reality of dying*)
2 Cor. 5:8 ESV: "Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and be at home with the Lord."
 - See also Psa. 116:15; 1 Cor. 15:55; Phil. 1:21; Rev. 14:13; etc.
 - Note also two other statements by Paul Acts 21:13; 2 Tim. 4:6-8
- (2) Noting carefully Joshua's address, we can imply that he was also attesting to the fact that all his life he had personally witnessed the goodness of the LORD in his life and for all Israel.
- David also had a powerful testimony!
Psa. 37:25 RSV
 "I have been young, and now am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging bread."
 - The reality is, what God say, He will do!! **2 Peter 3:9;** also Deut. 7:9; 1 Kings 8:56; Psa. 36:5; 89:1; 1 Cor. 1:9; etc.
- (3) Not a single promise that God made to Israel was not fulfilled . . . **NOT ONE!**
1 Kings 8:56 NKJV
 "Blessed be the LORD, who has given rest to His people Israel according to all that He promised. There has not failed one word of all His good promise, which He promised through His servant Moses."
- (b) It was very important that the leaders, Joshua was addressing, heed the warning that God will judge as necessary! (Josh. 23:15-16).
- (1) Nothing will stop the judgment of God from falling upon those who turn away from Him.
- (2) Joshua was doing all that he knew had to be done in order to protect the people from such painful and humiliating experiences if they forsook the LORD!!
- At this point he summed up briefly what he had been saying. He gave special warning concerning the damnation which would follow apostasy from the LORD.
 - **God's faithfulness (v. 14) served as guarantee that similarly the LORD will judge Israel if they transgress the covenant (Vv. 15-16).**
- (3) Note how he describes the judgment he tells them of:
- If they harbor and indulge with the Canaanites, they will become snares and traps to them, leading them away from God to a depraved lifestyle.
 - Association with the worldly minded would certainly bring upon Israel, His anger.
 - As they witnessed the faithfulness of God (v. 14) even so threatening of the LORD will be fulfilled (v.15).
 - The judgments of God would mean total destruction to them as a nation.
 . . . **three times these are mentioned:**

- Your enemies will irritate you *until you perish from off this good land (v. 13).*
- God will plague *until you have perished from off this good land (v. 15).*
- Heaven and earth will collaborate to root you out so that *you shall perish from off the good land (v. 16).*

(c) Joshua's greatest concern was that Israel would not go through such an experience.

(1) He knew that if the people would love the LORD with all their heart, soul, mind and strength then goodness and mercy would follow them all the days of their lives!

(2) Unfortunately, the shallowness of their love caused Joshua's words to become prophetic.

- Numerous accounts in the Book of Judges show what Israel had to suffer because of their failure to follow God wholeheartedly.
- God was supremely loving and patient with Israel, just as He is today.
 - **However, we must not confuse His patience with us as approval of our indifference to our sin.**
 - **Beware of demanding your own way because eventually you may get it—along with its painful consequences!**

(3) The surety of judgment is proclaimed throughout Scripture.

- God will judge the world, judge all who turn away from Him and live worldly, immoral, covetous, unjust, lawless and violent lives.
- Any person who does not honor God by believing Him and following Him will face the eternal judgment of God. The judgment of God is sure and certain. It is inevitable!!
 - **John 5:28-29 Amplified Bible**
 “Do not be surprised and wonder at this, for the time is coming when all those who are in the tombs shall hear His voice. And they shall come out—those who have practiced doing good [will come out] to the resurrection of [new] life, and those who have done evil will be raised for judgment [raised to meet their sentence]. [Dan. 12:2].”
 - See also Heb. 9:27; John 3:19; 2 Peter 2:9; 3:7-14; Jude 14-15; etc.

Hope is found in Jesus Christ!! See John 3; 14, NB Vv. 5-14; etc.

John 3:17(NKJV): “For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.”

2 Tim. 2:15 Amplified Bible

“Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and accurately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of truth.”

LESSON 18 REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. As discussed in Lesson 17 (Josh. 22), list the ways in which the East Jordan tribes were loyal. (Give references)

2. Complete the following:

"A good (a) _____ is (b) _____ but not good (c) _____ if we do not (d) _____ to the (e) _____. It is not how we (f) _____ but how we (g) _____."

3. In relation to the charge given to the East Jordan tribes briefly note the specific areas discussed in regards to the charge given to them.

4. Complete the following:

"The East Jordan tribes were charged to (a) _____ in His ways, to (b) _____ His commandments. Joshua told them to (c) _____ God with all that they have, to keep His (d) _____, to (e) _____ fast to Him in a personal sense, and to (f) _____ Him with all their (g) _____, soul (h) _____ and strength."

5. In regards to the East Jordan tribes erecting an unauthorized altar, explain the following two acts of the West Jordan tribes' response to this violation: (a) "Readiness to go to war". (b) "Appointing a Committee."

6. What danger was averted as a result of the peaceful settlement in regards to the unauthorized altar erected by the East Jordan tribes?

7. Complete by choosing the correct answer:
"Joshua encouraged the leaders (Josh. 23) with the strongest promises, noting that no enemy should ever be able to prevail against them, if they continue _____."

- (a) loving the ways of the Canaanites
- (b) to love only their own way
- (c) to love the LORD their God
- (d) loving the LORD only as convenient

8. In Joshua's admonition to the leaders of Israel, what was remarkably outstanding how he commenced his address?

9. In our lesson, reference was made to Matt. 6:25-34, briefly note one significant lesson as it relates to the context of our lesson (Lesson 18).

10. Joshua's advance was noted in our lesson (Josh. 23:1 and 2); in what way was his age had significant in the address to the leaders of Israel?

11. Make a listing, briefly describing the various levels of leadership summoned to the meeting with Joshua.

12. Briefly list the five pointers noted in reference to Joshua's account of their God given victories over their enemies in Canaan (with references).

13. Give a brief description of the area of land acquired by the Israelites in Canaan (give references).

14. In regards to the remaining smaller armies (after Canaan was conquered) (a) what assurance was given by God? (b) What was Israel's responsibility?

15. What was it that Joshua saw that was necessary among the leaders of Israel that formed the compelling drive which motivated him to have this leadership meeting?

16. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“Lip service is easy to do but to sincerely and consistently follow God and His Word is not something _____.”

- (a) for the strong and faithful
- (b) for the faint of heart
- (c) for the sad and discouraged
- (d) for the valiant and vigorous

17. As noted in Josh. 23:7, what four specific areas were emphasized by Joshua in which the leaders (and the nation of Israel) were to exercise caution?

18. In our lesson, what three steps were recommended to the leaders of Israel for them to maintain the flow of blessings from God? (Josh. 23:6-11; give references).

19. Complete the following:

“The (a) _____ of sin is (b) _____, and those who have (c) _____ with (d) _____ cannot (e) _____ having fellowship with (f) _____.”

20. Complete by choosing the correct answer:

“... The compromising Christian _____.”

- (a) is a really happy man
- (b) is not a happy man
- (c) is not a sad person
- (d) is very happy and secured